



Faith for the Hopeful vol xi

The Seven Virtues of Christ

Amori Christi et Ecclesiae—Glen C. Miller OSV

((5) The sevenfold operation of the Holy Ghost vs. the Beatitudes

Augustine - Chapter IV. 11.

Hence also the sevenfold operation of the Holy Ghost, of which Isaiah speaks, seems to me to correspond to these stages and sentences. But there is a difference of order: for there the enumeration begins with the more excellent, but here with the inferior. For there it begins with wisdom, and closes with the fear of God: but "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

And therefore, if we reckon as it were in a gradually ascending series, there

the fear of God is first,

piety second,

knowledge third,

fortitude fourth,

counsel fifth,

understanding sixth,

wisdom seventh.

The fear of God corresponds to the humble, of whom it is here said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit," i.e. those not puffed up, not proud: to whom the apostle says, "Be not high-minded, but fear;" i.e. be not lifted up.

Piety corresponds to the meek: for he who inquires piously honours Holy Scripture, and does not censure what he does not yet understand, and on this account does not offer resistance; and this is to be meek: whence it is here said, "Blessed are the meek."

KJV (from the Hebrew)
(Isaiah 11:2, 3) And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear of the LORD**; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

BLXX (from the Greek)

Isa 11:2 -3.

"and the Spirit of God shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **strength**, the spirit of **knowledge** and **godliness** shall fill him; the spirit of the **fear of God**. He shall not judge according to appearance, nor reprove according to report:"

V. be **pious** &c. adj.; have faith &c. n.; believe, receive Christ; Meekness = willing to wait for God to provide justice.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Knowledge corresponds to those that mourn who already have found out in the Scriptures by what evils they are held chained which they ignorantly have coveted as though they were good and useful.

Fortitude corresponds to those hungering and thirsting: for they labour in earnestly desiring joy from things that are truly good, and in eagerly seeking to turn away their love from earthly and corporeal things: and of them it is here said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness."

Counsel corresponds to the merciful: for this is the one remedy for escaping from so great evils, that we forgive, as we wish to be ourselves forgiven; and that we assist others so far as we are able, as we ourselves desire to be assisted where we are not able: and of them it is here said, "Blessed are the merciful."

Understanding corresponds to the pure in heart, the eye being as it were purged, by which that may be beheld which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, and what hath not entered into the heart of man: and of them it is here said, "Blessed are the pure in heart."

Wisdom corresponds to the peacemakers, in whom all things are now brought into order, and no passion is in a state of rebellion against reason, but all things together obey the spirit of man, while he himself also obeys God: and of them it is here said, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

*Moreover, the one reward, which is **the kingdom of heaven**, is variously named according to these stages. In the first, just as ought to be the case, is placed **the kingdom of heaven**, which is the perfect and highest wisdom of the rational soul.*

Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they which do
hunger and thirst after right-
eousness: for they shall be
filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for
they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the
children of God.
Mt 5:3-9.